



## Summit of Heads of Government of the CEI

Zagreb, 3-4 December 2018

SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AII, Amb. Giovanni Castellaneta

- Dear President, Prime Ministers, Excellencies...
- I would like to thank you for the outstanding organization of this high level event and for the choice of the topic that is also on the top of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative and EUSAIR Agenda: *Building Security, Boosting Economy, Enabling Prosperity*;
- It is a great pleasure to be here and to share the **longstanding regional cooperation experience of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative** (18 Years) in the Region;
- The AII as well as the “**EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region**” which is currently our main focus, clearly share the same objectives as the Central European Initiative, namely to **facilitate the integration process and to promote economic growth and prosperity** in the region through concrete cooperation activities;
- From June 2018, the Chairmanship of the AII has been held by the Republic of Montenegro which presented an AII program that intends to continue with **fostering good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation** in order to accelerate development and growth.
- Particular focus has also been reserved to the promotion of European standards and values, supporting the EU perspective of the non-EU Member States, **thus representing an impetus to the enlargement and integration process**.
- It is therefore clear that there is **room for synergies** and for exchanging information and experiences between our intergovernmental / multilateral initiatives, especially on new issues like migration and unaccompanied children, starting with a process of bottom-up involvement of representatives of Civil

Society (Municipalities, Universities, Chambers of Commerce) that the All has always promoted;

- Thank you again to the CEI Presidency for the invitation to this Summit and for the warm hospitality in Zagreb.
  
- Let me also wish a successful Presidency to the incoming Italian Chairmanship represented here by the brightest minds. I look forward to a productive and fruitful cooperation.  
In this regard, let me thank the outgoing Secretary General Amb. Caracciolo and the incoming SG Sen. Antonione.
  
- Thank you very much for your attention.